



CITY OF HEATH UPDATE

BUILDING MORATORIUM ENACTED FOR HEATH

JANUARY 2024

===== SEE PAGE 3 =====



HEATH TOWNE CENTER PARK
Illustrative Site Plan Overview

Kimley Horn



A Message From MAYOR KELSON ELAM

In 2023, the City Council approved a \$12-million-dollar renovation of Town Center Park with amenities such as pickle ball courts and a showcase for drought-tolerant vegetation (illustrated above).

We also broke ground on the new plaza park at the corner of the Tom Thumb/Towne Center to provide more open space and a beautiful entry feature for our downtown area. We are looking forward to a rapid completion of both projects.

Additionally, the City and EDC are working with multiple groups on potential restaurant and retail concepts and hope that 2024 will be the year “The Reserve” on Chris Cuny Parkway starts to blossom.

Like many other cities in Texas, Heath is adopting new water conservation standards for landscaping and irrigation. Our water supplier, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), has implemented a year-round, two-day-a-week irrigation schedule for all end-users. Water has always been, and will continue to be, a finite resource, and we want to ensure that we can meet the needs of current and future residents.

City staff are working on new development standards that will include the use of vegetation to protect foundations, improved irrigation systems and drought-tolerant landscaping.

A brief building moratorium was put in place in November to allow these standards to be implemented, and we are working with developers of existing and new plats along with our Homeowner Associations to bring citywide irrigation usage up to modern standards. (Read more on page 3.)

Our current allotment of six million gallons per day far exceeds our normal usage, so we just need to be smarter about how we water the plants during the hot and dry summer months. The moratorium allows for approved waivers so no delays in construction are anticipated, and no sky is falling on any heads.

We are also working to increase our water capacity to account for growth. The expectation is to have a secondary water source operational within four years and maintain redundancy with the current line. Even with additional supply, water conservation will remain a way of life.

The old saying in Texas is “Whisky is for drinking, water is for fighting”. Some things never change.

Best to all of you in 2024.



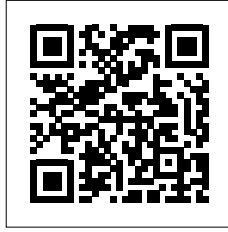
THE COMMUNITY KICKS OFF CHRISTMAS IN HEATH ON DECEMBER 1

More than 2,000 residents came out to enjoy the sights, sounds and treats of Christmas on a festive winter's evening at Towne Center Park including the Christmas Tree lighting and visits with Santa. More than 3,000 Christmas cookies baked by First United Methodist Church of Heath, btc Lakeside League and the Pearl and Lone Star National Charity League chapters were enjoyed with hot cocoa, while an array of food trucks provided heavier fare.

The City thanks everyone who made this beloved event a success: City staff; Special Event Series Sponsors; Amy Parks, Pullen and Linda Lyon Elementary Honor Choirs; Rockwall-Heath High School Jazz Band, Percussionists and Student Council; and an army of volunteers including the Special Events Board led by Chairman Jenni Knox and members Tami Hogan, Amanda Rosander and Stacy Megill. Find more photos on the City's Facebook page, and the highlights video at heathtx.com.

CITY OF HEATH ENACTS BUILDING MORATORIUM

PAUSE PROVIDES TIME TO DEVELOP AND ENACT WATER-CONSCIOUS ORDINANCES



The City of Heath enacted a temporary residential and commercial building moratorium on November 14.

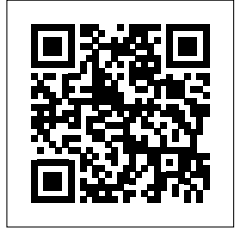
The purpose of the pause is to provide time to develop ordinances that support water conservation including landscaping and irrigation system requirements. The moratorium does not affect any property development already in progress. The moratorium is currently scheduled through March 2024 but could be extended if necessary.

The water study to identify additional sources of water continues, with the first report at the December 12 City Council meeting. The City Council also approved the purchase of a new 300 HP water pump to provide redundancy and expand pumping capabilities.

Scan the QR code to read more, including FAQs about the moratorium.

AVOID MESSING PROBLEMS BY PROPERLY DISPOSING OF HOLIDAY COOKING FATS, OILS AND GREASE (FOG)

FOG is the residue left over from all that cooking with meats, butter, lard, sauces, dressing, dairy products and oil. FOG and other debris poured down the drain can build up in pipes and cause backups in both private and City-maintained sewer systems.



To avoid expensive plumbing repairs and damage to the sewer system:

- Scrape or wipe cooled grease or fat from all cookware and place in the trash.
- Pour or scrape melted grease into a sturdy closed-lid container and dispose the sealed container in the trash.
- You can also use the City of Heath's Household Hazardous Waste front porch collection for disposal of the sealed container.

Learn more about HHH Waste by scanning the QR code, or visiting the website Trash Collection page.

DOG & ALARM PERMITS EXPIRE JANUARY 1, 2024 RENEWAL PROCESS AUTOMATED ONLINE

Annual dog and alarm permits expire on January 1, 2024, and the process to renew has been automated online. You will receive email notification in December with instructions on how to update your information and make the payment. Anyone responsible for the operation of or in possession of an alarm system in the City of Heath is required to obtain an annual permit for operation of such system. The permit is good for a calendar year and a penalty of \$200 may be assessed if an alarm system permit is not current. The fee for a residential permit is \$35 per year. The annual cost for dog registration is \$10 for intact dogs and \$5 for those that have been spayed or neutered.

2023 SPECIAL EVENT SPONSORS



SCAN

SAFE CITIZENS ALERT NETWORK

Reminders from Heath SCAN

SAFE CITIZENS ALERT NETWORK

The City of Heath operates a QR code-based emergency communication program called SCAN: Safe Citizens Alert Network. While residents are urged to sign up for Rockwall County's free NIXLE alert system, HEATH SCAN is in place to quickly distribute emergency information that is specific to Heath citizens without reliance upon third party sources. SCAN also provides an easy way to use your phone to access this information, which is critical when devices such as desktop computers are not available due to power outages. SCAN the QR Code with your phone to go directly to the SCAN emergency page on the City's website that will be activated to provide real-time information as necessary.

OTHER SCAN RESOURCES...

CARING FOR HEATH'S VULNERABLE

If you have a loved one who is vulnerable during emergency situations, you can register them for Wellness Checks by Heath Department of Public Safety officers. You may also request that a lockbox be placed on their door and provide the key to DPS officers for access during an emergency incident. Use the SCAN QR code to access registration.

UPDATING YOUR PREFERRED CONTACT INFORMATION:

Before, during and after, the City of Heath also has the capability to send out alerts via text, phone or email. The contact information tied to your utility billing account will be used. You can change your preferred email or phone number on the main SCAN page.

IMPORTANT WEATHER REMINDERS

Call 911 for an emergency.

For non-emergency assistance, call 972-771-7724.



POWER:

Electricity - To report a power outage, call Oncor: 888.313.4747
Gas - If you suspect a natural gas leak indoors or outdoors, leave the area immediately, call 911 and call the Atmos Energy gas emergency number: 866.322.8667.

WATER:

If you need to have water shut off after hours at your home or business in Heath, call 972,771.7724.

HANDLING LEAKING OR BROKEN WATER PIPES:

Emergency Water Shut Off - The City is available on an emergency basis to shut off your water if there is a leak or burst pipe. The professional who repairs your leak or broken pipe should turn the water back on for you. If for some reason you turn the water back on yourself using a water key, please be careful. If damage to the meter occurs, you will be responsible for the cost of repair.

If Your Pipes are Frozen

- Find your shut off valve and turn off the water with a water key.
- Do not wait until it starts to get warm to find out if you have broken pipes.
- Have the professional who repairs your leak/broken pipe turn the water back on for you.
- Be sure someone is in your house when the water is turned back on.

CALL EMERGENCY: 911 | NON-EMERGENCY UTILITY/AFTER HOURS: 972.771.7724